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preliminary list*
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 7 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the Declaration of the Government of of the Republic of Albania, dated 6 July 1991, on the recent events in Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 68, 94, 99 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Genc MLLOJA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Albania, issued at Tirana on 6 July 1991

The recent events in Yugoslavia: Slovenia's and Croatia's decision to declare the independence and later the violent intervention of the Federal army forces against this decision, make evident the importance and direction Yugoslavia will adopt to come out of the crossroad it is in for a long time now. Actually, the country is on the verge of a civil war. The crisis that has reached its climax constitutes a major distressing problem not only for Yugoslavia, but also for the entire Europe and the Balkans in particular. For the Albanian people and Government, for Albania as a Balkan country and Yugoslavia's neighbour, this concern is assuming special proportions and importance, taking into consideration the fact that about 3 million Albanians, our compatriots - hence half of the Albanian nation - is actually living in Yugoslavia. After 10 years of severe repression and incessant restriction of the national rights, actually Kosova is militarily occupied by Serbia.

The more so, the Serb population is being armed, paramilitary bands are making provocations at any moments looking for pretexts to escalate the genocide against the Albanians. Bloodshed the Serb chauvinist forces are preparing in Kosova threatens stability and peace in the Balkans and Europe. It runs counter to the democratic tendencies of the Continent, already institutionalized in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). These ominous schemes aim at bringing back the dark times of the beginning of the century in the Balkans and at rekindling a new hearth of conflict in the middle of the Europe. This stand exercised by Serbia is totally different from the civilized stand, exercised through democratic and peaceful ways by the Albanian population of Kosova since 1981 and on.

Such plans are unacceptable for a Europe which marches towards peace, security and cooperation on a continental scale. They are the more so for the Albanian people and Government.

Naturally, it is the right of the peoples of Yugoslavia to decide themselves on the fate and future of their State. But in order for this future to be defined according to the processes of European security and the interests of its peoples, no decision on this future can ignore the will of the Albanian population in Yugoslavia. When referring to Kosova and the Albanians in Yugoslavia, it is not the word for a minority, it is the elementary right of 3 million Albanians tragically divided from the other part of the nation, that in the context of a new possible reorganization of the Yugoslav State, to be a constituent autonomous part of it, up to the form of the republic. This can be achieved only through a democratic way, through pluralistic elections, as an expression of the undeniable right of self-determination, sanctioned by the Acts of Helsinki and the United Nations and accepted by Yugoslavia.

The Albanian people and Government have full reason to insist on and make their contribution to a peaceful solution of the Yugoslav crisis in general and the question of the Albanians in particular, excluding the use of violence and military conflicts. This stand stems from the principles where the present European security and the historic process of the construction of a new Europe, which engages every country for the observation of the freedom of nations and individuals, is based upon.

The Government of the Republic of Albania appeals once more for wisdom and dialogue with the Albanians, for a political solution of the problem according to the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki documents. It addresses to the CSCE member States and Governments and to the entire international community, that in the context of their commitment and efforts for the solution of the Yugoslav crisis, not to disregard from this interest the question of the Albanians living in Yugoslavia, as one of the sharpest aspects of the Yugoslav crisis.